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POU998109US2

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 were originally presented in the subject divisional application, but were canceled in favor of claims 3-7 in a Preliminary Amendment filed with the application. Claim 6 was canceled without prejudice, and the substance thereof added to claim 5, in the previous Amendment and Response to Office Action filed on March 3, 2004. No claims have herein been amended, added or canceled. Therefore, claims 3-5 and 7 remain in this case.

The addition of new matter has been scrupulously avoided.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the ground of rejection.

Listing of Allowed Claims

The Office Action Summary indicates that the outstanding Office Action is responsive to the communication received on March 5, 2004. However, the Office Action incorrectly lists the pending claims as claims 3-7. Claim 6 was canceled without prejudice, and the substance thereof added to claim 5, in Applicants' Amendment and Response to Office Action filed on March 3, 2004. Applicants request that the listing of pending claims be amended to indicate that claims 3-5 and 7 are pending.

For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants have included a listing of the claims herein, as amended in Applicants' previous Amendment and Response to Office Action filed on March 3, 2004.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 3-7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-16 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,681,254, and claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,693,880.

With regard to U.S. Patent No. 6,681,254, Applicants point out that this is the parent of the present application, and that the present application is a divisional thereof. As noted in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the present application, the divisional nature thereof stems

-5-

POU998109US2

from a restriction requirement in the parent case into Group I claims 3-18, and Group II claims 19-23. Applicants pursued the Group I claims in the parent, while the Group II claims were pursued in the present application and renumbered as claims 3-7. No amendments or additional claims were made that would change the nature of the claims as filed.

Thus, since the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office made a determination that the Group II claims were patentably distinct from the Group I claims, Applicants submit that an obvious-type double patenting rejection over the parent is improper and should be withdrawn.

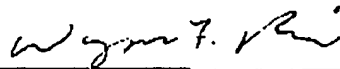
With regard to U.S. Patent No. 6,693,880, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer thereover.

CONCLUSION

For all the above reasons, Applicants maintain that the claims of the subject application define patentable subject matter and earnestly request allowance of claims 3-5 and 7.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, Applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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